

adoramus

Volume 21, No. 1 A Newsletter for those who Appreciate and Participate in Worship and the Arts Spring 2011

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.

When peace is far off and I wander in homelessness,
this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.

When my glory is gone and I have forgotten happiness,
this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.

When my soul remembers affliction and is bowed down before me,
this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning.
Great is God's faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion
and therefore I have hope.

"Steadfast Love," by Carolyn Speakman of Lethbridge, AB is based on Lamentations 3:17-24. It is an expression of a theme developed by author Kathleen Norris during a retreat on Acedia at Queen's House in Saskatoon, SK, last summer. This beautiful text illuminates a path through all that distracts or lures us away from fidelity to daily life. The refrain anchors us repeatedly in God, whose very nature is love and in whose image we are made.



Thinking of attending an Easter Vigil this year? Read on ...

Easter Vigil: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Presider: Bishop Ronald B. Mayan

Organized by: The Yellowhead Pastor's Cluster of the Alberta Synod

When: Saturday April 23rd - 3pm service with Potluck to follow.

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal - <http://www.ilcr.ca/> 780-963-4048

FAQ:

What is an Easter Vigil? It is the first Eucharist of Easter that marks the transition from death to resurrection. It begins in darkness with the re-telling of God's mighty works of salvation, and culminates in the Eucharist. See Pg. 266 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship for a service outline. We will be doing 5 of the mighty works salvation readings assigned. Each of the 5 readings chosen has been given to different groups to dramatize or present in different ways so it will be much more story telling than simply reading.

Wait... it says to begin after nightfall?: Yes... technically we should wait until nightfall (because in Hebrew time keeping, the next day begins the moment the sun is down). However, due to the late Easter, the late sunset, and the distance that many will need to travel, we are having it earlier in the day. This is why Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal was selected because it has no windows and full lighting control. We will be able to have the new fire lit, and control of the lighting in the sanctuary so that we who live so far North and so far apart can still participate in this yearly event.

How many people are coming? Hopefully everyone! The church holds many many so the more the merrier.

Can I bring my family that is home for the Easter Weekend? YES! We have worked hard to make this service outstanding by pooling the music and dramatic resources of many churches so this makes the perfect way to celebrate Easter and be together as friends and family. It will be a joy to behold and a blessing to be a part of. Few opportunities exist to bring so many together so it's important to take these opportunities when they come.

More questions? Please call Pastor Sean Bell at 780-723-4366 or email: mailpastorbell@gmail.com

Easter Vigil: An Easter Proclamation

When: Saturday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Augustana Campus, 4901 46 Ave. Camrose

Who is involved: Augustana Chaplaincy, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, Camrose United Church and St. Andrew's Anglican Parish

This family friendly service will fill the senses. We process into the darkness, carrying the light from a huge fire in the middle of campus; we sing the Easter Proclamation; members of each congregation share the story telling in creative ways; we splash in the water as we fill the font and remember our Baptism; after the Easter story is read we unearth the Alleluia banner, dress the table, share the feast and proclaim, "Christ is Risen!"

For more information call: Robyn Simpson-Mohr, Assistant for Chaplaincy, Augustana Faculty, UofA. Ph: 780-679-1536 or email: simpr@augustana.ca

Easter Vigil: A shortened service

When: Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 p.m.

Where: Prince of Faith, 2523 56 St. NE. Calgary

For more information call: Rev. Scott Peterson at 403-280-2866.

Wise Words: *Be a peacemaker ...
it's hard to shake hands with a clenched fist.*

Christmas in February?

We know it's early, but if you have some creative ideas for litanies, candle lighting or Advent worship services, please send them to **Pastor Larry Kochendorfer** at lkochendorfer@elcic.ca and he will post them on the synod website.

Dreaming a Theological Vision at Grace, Edson (Part 2 of 2)

By: Pastor Sean Bell, Grace Lutheran Church, Edson

Leaving Christmas we were tired, and as the season after Epiphany rolled on we simply took out the white and added a layer of green. It's cold in Edson so the glowing warmth of the cross blanketed in colours was comforting. Then we pulled the rug out from everything. We were looking for some contrast.

For Ash Wednesday, it all came down. Everything. We went right back to wood and stone and cinder. On our altar for Lent there normally rests a striking purple cloth that has pierced hands and a crown of thorns. Rather than leave it on the Altar, we hung it behind the base of the cross, near the bottom. This left the altar bare except for the white cloth on the top, adding to the sense of being barren ... of being on a fast. Each Sunday of Lent those hands moved up towards the cross piece. Our journey to Easter was symbolized by these hands making their journey up the cross.

Passion/Palm Sunday rolled around and we left that purple cloth with those hands and crown up near the cross piece. We added the whites to the Altar and pulpit to give the sense that we were almost there. Then finally came Easter.

The goal of Easter was to explode over top of the people, to contrast with Lent. We wanted to make the light of Easter jump off the cross and flood out and wrap around the people. We wanted to say, "Through this cross you are taken up in the arms of Christ." The cold, dead cross needed to become the living symbol of grace and mercy extending toward the people.

Again Tien Young flew into action and for Easter we had 6 new banners in a royal purple with white lettering to add colour and festivity to the space. She also made a new Alleluia banner that now stays up all year.

And what says celebration? White and gold streamers, already in the right liturgical colour no less! 'Good' Friday had passed, the light had come, we once again celebrated what we celebrate every Sunday. Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

The white and gold streamers from the cross to the first beam seemed to accomplish this effect. Because eyes like to follow lines, our eyes followed the streamers from the cross to the 'Alleluia' loudly proclaimed above the first beam and then back again to the very centre of the cross. Looking at the cross we felt drawn in, but it wasn't cold and dead. It was alive with new meaning: It spoke of new life!

This stayed up all through Easter (adding one chore to Sunday morning - getting the ladder to put some of the streamers back up - use good tape next time!). All the white stayed in place until we rolled into Pentecost (and confirmation Sunday), where we just added the red and left up all the white and gold. It made for great confirmation pictures as well as making the space exciting for the Pentecost event and all our guests who attended confirmation Sunday.

And then, we rested, back to the greens and the planning phase for next year.

A resource that was helpful in all this was "Keeping Time; The Churches Year" which is volume three of the "Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship" available from Augsburg Fortress. (All three volumes are well worth the money.) This will give you some theological structure on which to hang your imagination as you try

to get your space to speak to you for the season.

Perhaps the most important thing to do is to keep talking about why you have done what you have done. Let the whole congregation know why the colours are different, the font is moving around, the banners are in different places. Symbols need interpretation and the space can't speak to people unless they know what they are looking at.

And the greatest trick of all? Assure people that it is "just for a season. It will go back to 'normal' soon." Then keep dreaming and let the space speak. **A**



Rev. Don Neville, former Committee on Worship and the Arts chair, represents ELCIC in panel discussion at Seattle ALCM Conference

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will be meeting in Seattle, Washington for their biennial national conference. The public is invited for the July 31 through August 4, 2011, conference at Seattle University.

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is a strong and successful service and professional organization with approximately 1,500 members, dedicated to the cause of strengthening the ministry of music in the Lutheran Church. It serves through a wide range of publications, conferences, and local, regional, and national events. ALCM is widely recognized as a significant force in Lutheran church music.

Once every two years ALCM comes together for a national conference, this summer convening at Seattle University. It is the perfect combination of affordable housing, walkable campus and tourist-friendly location. Worship spaces are close, plenary and workshop spaces are comfortable, and the Space Needle only 15 minutes away.

Along with noted plenary presenters Christian Scharen and Pam Fickenscher, a hymn festival, workshops and more, famed author and professor, Paul Westermeyer will moderate a panel discussion to address the following question: Out of the abundance of worship music arrayed before us these days, how do we decide what to sing? This is not a new question. It is indeed ageless.

Nevertheless this very question was asked of Paul Westermeyer, Professor of Church Music at Luther Seminary, author of "Te Deum: The Church and Music" and the now available "Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship." At this summer's conference, he will moderate a discussion entitled: Discernment: What music should we choose?

The distinguished panel members will be Lorraine Brugh, president of

Meet Rev. Ron Flamand, New Member of Committee on Worship and the Arts

Hello everyone, I have just been appointed as the newest member of the Synod's Worship and the Arts Committee, representing the northern conference. I look forward to what I will learn throughout this opportunity, as much as for what I might bring to this ministry. It will be a gift to work with people on this committee from throughout the synod. Joanne and I are members at Hosanna in Edmonton and I have a call as Associate Pastor to the congregation. We enjoy being grandparents to two wonderful granddaughters, Theresa, who is five and her sister Abbeygail, who is four. Among other interests I am currently enjoying the opportunity to support Joanne in her new venture of becoming a long arm quilter. **A**

the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, Aaron Christie for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, David Johnson for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Donald Neville for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Scott Weidler for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For more information about this discussion, the companion article by Paul Westermeyer and the rest of the conference, please visit our website at www.alcm.org. Or, call the ALCM offices at (800) 624-2526. **A**

Did you like Carolyn's hymn that is featured on the front page?

It has a lovely accompaniment for piano too!

Find it at www.openspirit.ca an exchange site for original hymns and worship music

adoramus

A publication of the Alberta and the Territories Committee on Worship and the Arts

Larry Kochendorfer Edmonton, AB
(Synod Liaison) (780) 439-2636
lkochendorfer@elcic.ca

Carolyn Speakman Lethbridge, AB
(Chair) (403) 327-5257
carolyn.speakman@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca

Tova Olson Camrose, AB
(780) 672-3444
tolson@messiahcamrose.ca

Ron Flamand Edmonton, AB
(780) 484-3932
ron.flamand@hosannalutheran.ab.ca

Colleen McGinnis Wetaskiwin, AB
(Editor) (780) 352-3519
mail@caelinartworks.com